Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lockout system for preventing a person from accessing electronic information through an interface device of a computer comprising:

a signal cable configured for being operably coupled at one end with a signal port and at the other end with an interface device of a computer, the signal cable configured to pass electronic information back and forth between the interface device and the port;

a locking device ~~including a relay having a set of contacts, the set of contacts~~ coupled in-line with the signal cable, the <u>locking device</u> ~~relay~~ when actuated, disabling the signal cable to prevent electronic information from passing between the interface device and the port;

<u>a processor coupled to the locking device, the processor configured to selectively actuate and de-actuated the locking device thereby disabling and enabling the signal cable;</u>

a plug lock insertable with the signal cable proximate said other end, the plug lock configured for maintaining the other end of the signal cable in operable connection with the interface device to hinder a bypass of the lockout system.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 1 wherein the signal cable is a telephone cable operable for carrying modem signals and is configured for being connected between a telephone port and a modem to prevent access to prohibited information over a phone line.

3.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 1 wherein the signal cable is a telephone cable operable for carrying network signals and is configured for being connected between a telephone port and a cable/digital subscriber line modem to prevent access to prohibited information over a digital subscriber line.

4.   (CANCELLED) The lockout system of claim 1 wherein the locking device includes a keyed switch coupled to the relay which is opened and closed using a key structure, the switch energizing and de-energizing the relay thereby disabling and enabling the signal cable.

5.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[4]] 3 wherein the locking device includes an outer housing, a portion of the keyed switch being located inside of said housing to further hinder a child from bypassing the lockout system.

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim 5 wherein the relay has a second set of contacts and the locking device further comprises includes a display coupled to the second set of contacts, locking device, the display indicating whether electronic information may pass between the interface device and the port.

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[7]] 1 wherein the locking device includes a relay, the processor coupled to the relay, the processor configured to selectively energize and de-energize the relay thereby disabling and enabling the signal cable.

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8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[7]] 1 wherein the

locking device includes a display coupled to the processor for indicating whether the

signal cable is enabled or disabled.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[7]] 1 wherein the

locking

device includes a reading device coupled to the processor, the processor configured

to energize actuate and de-energize de-actuate the relay locking device in response

to input received through the reading device.

10.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 9 wherein the reading device is a

magnetic card reader.

11.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 9 wherein the reading device is a

keypad.

12.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 9 wherein the reading device is a

touch screen.

13.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim 9 wherein the

processor includes a memory, the processor is configured to store user

authentication information, compare the input received through the reading device to

the store~~d~~ user authentication information, and ~~energize~~ actuate and ~~de-energize~~ de-actuate the ~~relay~~ locking device in response to the comparison.

14.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 13 wherein the processor includes a timer and the processor is configured to limit the amount of time a user has access to electronic information.

15.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 14 wherein the locking device includes an interactive telephone component coupled to the processor, the interactive telephone component configured to allow a user to disable and enable the signal cable remotely.

16.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 15 wherein the locking device includes a web-based device coupled to the processor, the web-based device to allow a user to disable and enable the signal cable using a computer.

17.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lockout system for preventing a person from accessing electronic information through an interface device of a computer comprising:

a signal cable configured for being operably coupled at one end with a signal port and at the other end with an interface device of a computer, the signal cable configured to pass electronic information back and forth between the interface device and the port;

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a locking device ~~including a relay having a set of contacts, the set of contacts~~ coupled in-line with the signal cable, the ~~relay~~ <u>locking device</u> when actuated, disabling the signal cable to prevent electronic information from passing between the interface device and the port.

<u>A processor coupled to the locking device, the processor configured to selectively actuate and de-actuate the locking device thereby disabling and enabling the signal cable.</u>

18.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 17 wherein the signal cable is a telephone cable operable for carrying modem signals and is configured for being connected between a telephone port and a modem to prevent access to prohibited information over a phone line.

19.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 17 wherein the signal cable is a telephone cable operable for carrying network signals and is configured for being connected between a telephone port and a cable/digital subscriber line modem to prevent access to prohibited information over a digital subscriber line.

20.   (CANCELLED) The lockout system of claim 17 wherein the locking device includes a keyed switch coupled to the relay which is opened and closed using a key structure, the switch energizing and de-energizing the relay thereby disabling and enabling the signal cable.

21.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[20]] 18 wherein the

locking device includes an outer housing, a portion of the keyed switch being located

inside of said housing to further hinder a child from bypassing the lockout system.

22.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim 21 wherein the ~~relay~~

~~has a second set of contacts and the~~ locking device ~~further comprises~~ includes a

display coupled to the ~~second set of contacts~~ locking device, the display indicating

whether electronic information may pass between the interface device and the port.

23.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim 17 wherein the

locking

device includes a relay, the processor coupled to the relay, the processor configured

to selectively energize and de-energize the relay thereby disabling and enabling the

signal cable.

24.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[23]] 17 wherein the

locking device includes a display coupled to the processor for indicating whether the

signal cable is enabled or disabled.

25.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim [[23]] 17 wherein the

locking device includes a reading device coupled to the processor, the processor

configured to ~~energize~~ actuate and ~~de-energize~~ de-actuate the ~~relay~~ locking device in

response to input received through the reading device.

26.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 25 wherein the reading device is a magnetic card reader.

27.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 25 wherein the reading device is a keypad.

28.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 25 wherein the reading device is a touch screen.

29.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lockout system of claim 25 wherein the processor includes a memory, the processor is configured to store user authentication information, compare the input received through the reading device to the store user authentication information, and ~~energize~~actuate and ~~de-energize~~de-actuate the ~~relay~~locking device in response to the comparison.

30.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 29 wherein the processor includes a timer and the processor is configured to limit the amount of time a user has access to electronic information.

31.   (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 30 wherein the locking device includes an interactive telephone component coupled to the processor, the interactive telephone component configured to allow a user to disable and enable the signal cable remotely.

32. (ORIGINAL) The lockout system of claim 30 wherein the locking device includes a web-based device coupled to the processor, the web-based device to allow a user to disable and enable the signal cable using a computer.